

Alexandra Hill, Arianna Riddle, and Carisa Sanchez

Good evening, Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Maynard, Representative Willis, and members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity for me to testify before you today. Here with me is my good friend Arianna Riddle who helped put together this presentation along with Carisa Sanchez, Jourdan Duncan, and myself. We believe that raising the funds for all of the state colleges here in Connecticut is not the wisest decision to make, especially one to make so hastily.

Arianna is an out of state student and she is going to have a really difficult time trying to pay for school. This is her first semester at Southern Connecticut State University and has only been in the state for a month. She cannot become a Connecticut resident until next January. For CT resident students the tuition is going to double and for her tuition, it is going to seem like it will triple. How is she suppose to pay for college and continue to get the degree of her dreams? If you raise tuition you will be depriving people of their education. The Governor and legislatures will be repressing an amazing education, a great career, and an abundant life for people. How can the children be the future if you steal their future away from them? We ask you, Governor Malloy, how can you sit on your high horse with your education,

the same kind that allowed you to have the job you have, and say that the average middle class person cannot go on the same path because you want to charge more money for college?

The reason why my good friend Carisa left her previous school, the University of New Haven, was because the price of the education there is too expensive. They produce a small increase in the tuition every year. It is simply unfair and wrong for Governor Malloy to punish those without enough money by raising the tuition when we all have the equal right to participate in higher education.

When I learned that reduced advising, mentoring, and counseling would be one of the harmful consequences of this result, I was appalled. I could not imagine what my college career would be like so far without my counselors and advisors guiding me in the right directions where I needed to go based upon my requirements academically and personally. What also disturbs me about raising the tuition is:

- 1) The option to close school programs where a vast majority of college students, including myself, make their lifelong friends and revel in to enjoy their hobbies and interests to help their college career become less stressful and,

2) The option to cut majors where we seek our important goals in life that could change our future for the better not just for us individually, but for our communities, our state, our country, and our world!

As the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors have stated, we believe that, and I quote, "change must NOT be at the expense of quality higher education and the future of our students and of our State"!